

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for the production of coated workpieces, comprising the steps of:

a) ~~electrodeposition of~~ electrodepositing one or more layers containing at least one metal and/or metal alloy on a substrate, and

b) ~~thermal treatment of~~ thermally treating the coated substrate at a temperature of between 300°C and 1000°C in such a way that at least the surface layer of the substrate and the layer or layers applied in step a) partially and/or completely interdiffuse.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate of step a) is electrically conductive.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate of step a) is a metallic substrate and/or metallized substrate.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic substrate and/or metallized substrate includes one or more metals, said metals preferably being transition metals.

5. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 3 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is selected from the group of substrates ~~including~~ consisting of the metals magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, iron, nickel, chromium, vanadium, tungsten, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt and mixtures and/or alloys thereof.

6. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~at least one of claims~~ Claim 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of step a) is coated from a non-aqueous electrolyte or from an aqueous electrolyte.

7. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of step a) is selected from aluminum, magnesium, tin, nickel and mixtures and/or alloys thereof.

8. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 6 ~~or 7, characterized in that~~ wherein the metal alloy includes an aluminum/magnesium alloy and/or an aluminum/tin alloy.

9. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims~~ Claim 1 to 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature and/or duration of the thermal treatment of step

b) is selected in such a way that an alloy containing metal of the surface layer of the substrate and metal and/or metal alloy of the coated layer will be formed at least in the boundary area between substrate and coated layer of step a).

10. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims Claim 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 400°C and 1000°C, ~~preferably between 450°C and 900°C, and most preferably between 500°C and 800°C.~~

11. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims Claim 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 1 second and 10 hours, ~~preferably between 1 minute and 5 hours, and most preferably between 2 minutes and 3 hours.~~

12. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~one or more of claims Claim 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ wherein subsequent to coating the layer in step a) and prior to performing the thermal treatment in step b), the layer is subjected to further treatment.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said treatment is anodic oxidation, ~~which preferably is anodization of the layer.~~

14. **(Currently amended)** The method according to ~~at least one of claims Claim 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ wherein the coated workpieces are rack goods, bulk materials, continuous products or molded articles, ~~the coated workpiece preferably being a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, or a turbine blade.~~

15. **(Currently amended)** A coated workpiece, which can be obtained according to ~~one or more of claims Claim 1 to 14.~~

16. **(Currently amended)** The coated workpiece according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said the coated workpieces are rack goods, bulk materials, continuous products or molded articles, ~~the coated workpiece preferably being a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, or a turbine blade.~~

17. **(New)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 450°C and 900°C.

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18. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the temperature of thermal treatment of step b) is between 500°C and 800°C.

19. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 1 minute and 5 hours.

20. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the duration of thermal treatment in step b) is between 2 minutes and 3 hours.

21. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said anodic oxidation is anodization of the layer.

22. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein said coated workpieces are selected from the group consisting of a wire, a metal sheet, a screw, a nut, a concrete anchorage, a machine component part, an engine, an engine part, and a turbine blade.